

## Message Text

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17

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 NSCE-00 IO-14 OMB-01 SAM-01 DRC-01 /107 W

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R 260353Z SEP 74

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2349

INFO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY SUVA

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 10662

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR OCON XE XC US

SUBJ: POSSIBLE SUBJECT FOR CHIEFS OF MISSION MEETING

1. I THINK IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO DEVOTE SOME ATTENTION TO  
THE STYLE OF OUR DIPLOMACY IN EA, PARTICULARLY IN SEA. THIS  
SUBJECT WOULD NATURALLY COME UP IN VARIOUS WAYS IN DISCUSSION  
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OF ALMOST ALL THE TOPICS SUGGESTED SO FAR, BUT PERHAPS

WE COULD CONCENTRATE ESPECIALLY ON TACTICS IN A SEPARATE SESSION BY TRYING TO ANSWER A GENERAL QUESTION FORMULATED ALONG THESE LINES: " HOW BEST CAN THE US INSTILL CONFIDENCE AS TO THE FUTURE IN THE NATIONS OF THE AREA?"

2. THE PROBLEM WE WOULD WORK ON IS HOW TO CREATE CONFIDENCE WHEN US MILITARY FORCES ARE CLEARLY DECREASING, CONGRESSIONAL ATTITUDES ARE SO OPENLY SKEPTICAL OF THE VALUE TO THE US OF CONTINUING THE KINDS OF TIES WITH SEA COUNTRIES WHICH WE HAVE HAD SO FAR, AND DETENTE AND NORMALIZATION OF US RELATIONS WITH THE MAJOR COMMUNIST POWERS GIVES THE IMPRESSION THAT SEA HAS DECLINED IN IMPORTANCE. THERE SEEMS TO BE INCREASING UNCERTAINTY THAT THE US CAN BE RELIED UPON BY SEA COUNTRIES OVER THE LONG HAUL. THEREFORE, BECAUSE WE LACK SOME OF THE MATERIAL MEANS WHICH WE HAVE BEEN ACCUSTOMED TO USE IN BUTTRESSING SEA CONFIDENCE WE HAVE TO FALL BACK ON THE STYLE OF OUR OPERATIONS AND ATTEMPT, DESPITE THE MANY OBSTACLES, TO CONVEY AN APPEARANCE OF US STEADINESS, FOR STEADINESS ON OUR PART WILL HELP MAINTAIN CONFIDENCE. IF THE LEADERS OF SEA CAN COUNT ON US BEHAVIOR AND ATTITUDES HOLDING A PREDICTABLE PATTERN EVEN THOUGH WHAT WE DO IS NOT NECESSARILY WHAT THEY WOULD WANT US TO DO OR AS MUCH AS THEY WOULD WANT US TO DO, IT DOES ALLOW THEM TO FEEL THEY CAN CALCULATE AND TO SOME EXTENT PLAN FOR THEIR FUTURE.

CROSS

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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